

ABSTRACT
WA-II-161
"Eye Trap"
Boonsboro Vicinity
Private

18th Century

This two story, four bay lime stone farmhouse is primarily significant as an example of Washington County's 18th century domestic vernacular architecture. Apparently built during the later part of the 18th century, the house retains a major portion of its original interior woodwork. Constructed over the four bay, off center front door plan it is representative of a major architectural group in the area, which may have its origins in Germanic building traditions.

Members of the Smith family with whom this property was associated during much of the 18th century were active participants in the American Revolution.

WA-II-161
District 12
Map 67
Parcel 294

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: "Eye Trap"				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Manor Church Road, East of Poffenberger Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Boonsboro Vicinity				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
Comments _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Lawrence A. Jones, M.D.				
STREET AND NUMBER: Route # 1, Box 378A				
CITY OR TOWN: Boonsboro		STATE: Maryland		21713
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House				
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		21740
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 539/596				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey #2044				
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		21404

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located south of Manor Church Road east of Poffenberger Road in the vicinity of Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on gently rolling land beside a small spring run and faces south.

The structure is a two story, four bay fieldstone dwelling constructed of roughly coursed local limestone. Because of the sloping ground on which the house is built, its cellar is above ground level at the east elevation. A small one story, one bay structure also of fieldstone, except at its end wall which is weatherboarded, is attached to the west gable end of the house. A one story leanto addition of frame construction is located at the north elevation. Decorative work associated with the masonry walls includes roughly cut but pronounced keystones over the openings in the front and side elevations. The keystones are flanked with larger dressed stones to form flat arches.

Windows at the east end of the front elevation are grouped closely while openings toward the west end are spaced further apart. Very wide wooden frames joined with pegs and trimmed with quarter round molding hold modern six over six pane sashes at all elevations. Pairs of modern gable roofed dormers have been added to the roof at the north and south elevations. Hinge pins set in several window frames suggest that shutters were present at one time.

The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west end of the house. The door frame appears to be a replacement of the original. It is narrow, holding double doors with glass panes. Above the doors is a broad transom. A one bay shed roofed porch shelters the entrance. Other entrances are located in the east elevation at the ground or cellar level and at the rear or north elevation.

The roof is covered with modern wooden shingles and terminates with a plain barge board set directly against the end walls. The eaves are finished with simple boxing under which is a course of molding. An unusually large stone chimney is located inside the west gable end. Inside the east gable end is a smaller chimney, also of stone. Both have decorative stone corbels at their tops.

The interior of the house is bisected by a stair hall running perpendicular to the front and rear walls. Two rooms are located on each side of the hall. In the southeast and northwest rooms are diagonal fireplaces with simple paneled chimney pieces. Fireplaces parallel to the end walls of the house are located in the southeast and northwest rooms. In the northwest room is a large service fireplace. Interior doors have six raised panels. Several are attached to their frames with long strap hinges.

The cellar is partially finished and has a large service fireplace in its east wall. Resting on the joists which support the first floor is a thick layer of mortar upon broad planks. The date 1792 is inscribed in the plaster on the east wall of the basement.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1792 Written in Cellar.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociol/Humon- | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant for its architecture and for its association with prominent early families in Washington County.

The structure is possibly one of the oldest dwellings extant in the Manor Church road vicinity. Constructed of stone in the four bay off center front door plan, this house is representative of a major architectural group in the Cumberland Valley and Western Maryland. This type of structure appears most frequently in areas where Pennsylvania German influence was strong. The house has several features which tend to suggest that it was built during the late 18th century. Among these characteristics are massive wide pegged window frames, the use of relatively small stones for wall construction and the presence of diagonal fireplaces. The type of interior woodwork and hardware evident throughout the house also suggests 18th century construction. The 1792 date inscribed in the cellar could be the year that the house was built. The appearance of the house suggests a date between 1780 and 1800.

The farm on which this house is located includes parts of the tracts, "Resurvey On Contentment" and "Eye Trap". In 1794 Isaac Hershey purchased 560 acres of "Eye Trap" from Thomas Smith for £3000. In several transactions between 1755 and 1779 Thomas Smith purchased approximately 434 acres of land from James Smith who was presumably his father. The land included portions of "Three Springs", "Addition To Three Springs", "Resurvey On Three Springs", "Resurvey On Addition To Three Springs" and "Spring Hill." Portions of this land may be that which were resurveyed for Thomas Smith in 1784 under the name "True Establishment", a tract containing 470 3/4 acres (land patent book 1, folio 223, 437). True Establishment was resurveyed again for Thomas Smith for the purpose of correcting errors in the initial survey and to add vacant land. The resurveyed property grew to 511 1/4 acres and was renamed "Eye Trap". In 1794 Thomas Smith and his family moved to Bourbon County Kentucky, selling the property to Isaac Hershey. The land remained in the Hershey family until 1835 when Christian Hershey's estate was sold to Joseph and Elizabeth Hershey Emmert. The property was held by the Emmert family through much of the remainder of the 19th century. In his will, made June 6, 1811, Isaac Hershey mentions two dwellings on his property, one is described as the "wooden house adjoining the stone one", elsewhere referred to as the "old buildings." Isaac Hershey also refers to his "present mansion house", offering his wife use of one room downstairs and one room upstairs and "the whole of the addition built thereto." It is not known whether the structures mentioned in the will represent any

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records.

Washington County Probate Records.

Washington County Patent Records.

Williams, Thomas J.C., History Of Washington County, Md.
Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
GDRNER	LATITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NAMED PROPERTY: 53.65 acres.

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historical Sites Survey	DATE November 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The house is in excellent condition and stands on a tract containing 53.65 acres. Also on the property is a large stone end bank barn. Southwest of the house, near Poffenberger Road, is the site of a private cemetery where members of the Hershey family are interred.

buildings standing today.

The Smith family, 18th century owners of this property, were prominent early residents of the area. Thomas Smith, who sold this property to Isaac Hershey, was active in the American Revolution. He died in 1803/4 in Kentucky.²

¹ Thomas J.C. Williams, History Of Washington County. Vol. 2 Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co. (1906) p. 1303.

² Ibid.

Liber Folio
539/596

April 7, 1972

Grantors: Richard K. Hershey & Jane L. Hershey
Grantees: Lawrence A. Jones & Elizabeth M. Jones
53.65 acres.

Liber Folio
491/617

June 30, 1969

Grantors: Deloris Myers Smith, et al
Grantees: Richard K. Hershey & Jane L. Hershey
65.13 acres.

Liber Folio
175/185

August 24, 1926

Grantor: Omer T. Kaylor, Trustee
Grantee: Howard C. Myers
(one half interest) \$4750.
134 acres, 2 roods, 5 perches.

Liber Folio
105/583

November 2, 1896

Grantor: Mary C. Miller
Grantee: Joseph M. Rowland
\$2757.25 (one half interest)
The property was devised to Mary C. Miller as heir
of Ann Emmert.

Liber Folio
RR/382

November 18, 1835

Grantors: David Claggett, Marmaduke Boyd and Issac Rowland, Commissioners.
Grantees: Joseph D. Emmert & Elizabeth Hershey Emmert
This transaction concerns the estate of Christian Hershey who died
intestate, resulting in the division of his estate into six parcels.

Liber Folio
HH/330

April 6, 1825

Grantor: Isaac Hershey
Grantee: Christian Hershey
\$5088. "Eye Trap" 144½ acres.
The property was devised to Isaac Hershey under the will of Isaac
Hershey deceased.

Will
Liber Folio
B/241

Will of Isaac Hershey, Made June 6, 1811

"I give and bequeath unto my sons, David and Isaac...the rest and residue
of my afore said plantation containing about 292 acres to be divided
between them...David to have the part with the old buildings which I
appraise at £12 per acre..." "...It is to be understood that the stone
house and barn on the place divided to my son David shall be appraised..."

Liber Folio
H/922

September 30, 1794

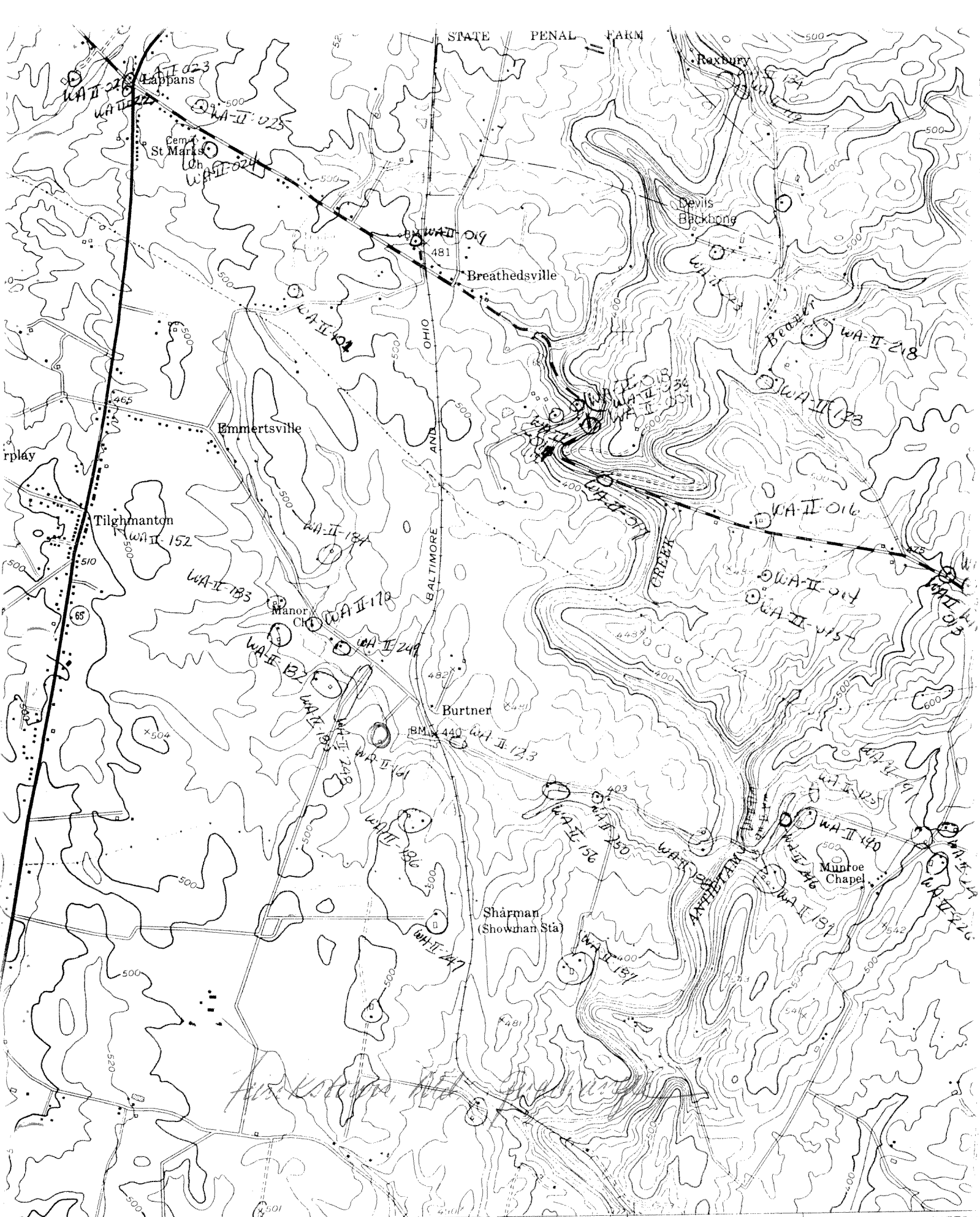
Grantor: Thomas Smith
Grantee: Isacc Hershey
£3000. "Eye Trap" 560 acres.

Liber Folio
B/203

October 18, 1779

Grantor: James Smith
Grantee: Thomas Smith

£50 289 acres.
"Spring Hill," "Resurvey On Three Springs."





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PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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